



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Greenfield Hall

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343 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield; New Jersey 08033

MAY 1988

In the Beginning . . .

At the next meeting of the Society, May 26, 8 p.m., at the Haddonfield Borough Hall, find out about early life in the area we now inhabit.

Who were the early settlers here? What were the conditions under which they lived?

Betty and George Stuart Lyons will take you back to the early 1700's and detail life in that period culminating with the wedding of Elizabeth Haddon to John Estaugh.

A YOUNG HADDONFIELD GOLDSMITH

James Campbell, a thirteen-year-old boy in 1772, was apprenticed to Joseph Lippincott, a Haddonfield goldsmith. He was to be taught the trade, art and mystery of a goldsmith, and also to read the Bible and write a legible hand. In those days goldsmiths were often also bankers.

Philadelphia Mayor John Gibson signed the indenture of James Campbell to Joseph Lippincott, indicating there was a Philadelphia connection. At that time there were just six goldsmiths in the City of Brotherly Love — Joseph Syng, John Bailey, William Ball, John David, Stephen Reeves and David Hall.

CURRENCY

Currency was so scarce in the early days of old Gloucester County that taxes in 1686 were paid with wheat, barley, Indian peas, rye, oats and buckwheat. Skins of wild beasts such as wolves and panthers were also acceptable at bounty prices. In the agreements and contracts the type of currency to be used for the transaction had to be specified before any paper was signed.

Tax collectors received a commission. This was their payment for the confusion which resulted from the many complex transactions and currency problems.



EDUCATION

"History Come Alive" has completed another successful school year. This enrichment program, which teaches local history to area students, has been educating elementary through high school pupils for six years. The schools visited this year were: Central, Tatem and Elizabeth Haddon Elementary, the Middle School, Haddonfield Friends and Christ The King.

This year the Education Department was able to add a new program entitled "Bottles to Bass Flutes". Again, the Cooper's Crafts, Harvest Time, Map Study and Postal Cards Programs were valued by both teachers and students in their social studies curriculum..

Basic to "History Come Alive" are the twelve dedicated docents: Mary Beck, Barbara Borphy, Mary Burke, Myra Kain, Fran Lunsford, Debbie Moore, Rosalie Scotti, Dianne Snodgrass, Robin Spence, Kathy Tassini, Nancy Weber and Jeannette Woehr. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank them for their time and commitment. Please add your personal thanks when you see them.

The Education Committee is especially grateful to Mr. Joseph Shanahan, Social Studies teacher in the Middle School, who had the hand-outs and teacher follow-ups reproduced for us.

The committee is looking for individuals who are interested in sharing their interest in history to school children. Requirements are liking children and availability. Training programs are available for any of the topics offered. Please contact any member of the Education Committee for further information.

Education

Dianne H. Snodgrass

The New Jersey State Museum on West State Street has an exhibit of Swedes on the Delaware which will be open until September. It was in 1638 that two shiploads of Swedes and Finns sailed up the Delaware with their leader, Peter Minuit. He selected the land at the mouth of Raccoon Creek and named it New Stockholm. The first child born there was Elizabeth Powell, who married Jacob DeCou at the home of Dr. Daniel Wills.

West Jersey, along the Delaware River, became home also to the Dutch, the Irish Quakers and the English Quakers.

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE

The Woman's Committee announced its annual gift of \$2,000 for operating expenses of the Historical Society at the Annual Candlelight Dinner in April. The Committee has also donated two lovely garden benches to be placed on the upper patio in memory of our long time devoted members, Helen Streeter and Ferris King. These gifts were made possible by memorial donations and by the efforts of everyone who has participated in fund raising activities.

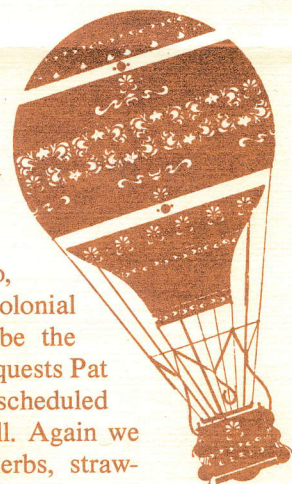
Village Fair

On June 4, 1988, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Historical Society will sponsor "Welcome to History", our 27th annual spring fair. Haddonfield's logo, the pineapple, which is a colonial symbol of hospitality, will be the motif. In response to many requests Pat Lennon will conduct several scheduled tours through Greenfield Hall. Again we will be selling plants and herbs, strawberries and vegetables, baked goods, used books and magazines. Also available will be our publications: books, maps and postcards; and a new item — a glass Christmas tree ornament. We plan to have a luncheon available in addition to the traditional coffee and donuts and hot dog picnic. In addition to the free balloons we expect to have local craftspeople presenting demonstrations and selling handcrafted items. Through the generosity of local shops we hope to conduct a Chinese auction with their delightful donations.

The success of "Welcome to History", depends on every member to lend a helping hand. We need donations of plants, baked goods and preserves, books and magazines, used household items and jewelry. Clean out your cupboards and bring the "oldies but goodies" to the garage May 27, 28, 31 and June 1, 2, 3 between 10 a.m. and noon. Dot Sherrerd, 429-6242, will be in charge of the Garage Sale.

For further information call Mary Jane Freedley at 428-2499 or Pat Lennon at 428-0117.

Woman's Committee
Mary Jane Freedley



HADDONFIELD AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

"When I Was Young"

by Benjamin T. Wood

NOTE: *The following excerpts are from a manuscript in the library of the Historical Society of Haddonfield written by Benjamin T. Wood in 1975. Mr. Wood lived in the house at 209 King's Highway from 1884 until his death in 1976 at the age of 95.*

"When my family moved in 1884 into the house where I now live, we were the last house on the road, now Kings Highway West, until one reached Mt. Ephraim, a distance of three miles. The road had no surfacing, not even gravel; there were wagon ruts in each direction, separated by a strip a few feet wide on which grass and weeds grew. People sat on their front porches in these days and in dry weather when an occasional wagon did come along the prevailing south wind would blow the dust in, much to the displeasure of those on the porches.

"Our house had been built in 1870. It was only 14 years old when my parents moved there to live, and it had "all the latest conveniences," most houses in the '80's and early '90's were lighted by oil lamps, and candles, but our house was lighted by gas. There was a tank buried in the yard into which gasoline shipped from Philadelphia in large barrels was emptied (into the tank) as I remember, about one tank every three months.

"The tank in the yard was connected to a device in the cellar, called a "gas machine". It looked like a copper barrel laying on its side in a framework which held it about a foot from the floor. There was a crank at one end of the machine and a drum at the other end around which was coiled a bronze cable attached through a pulley fastened to the first floor joist above to a very heavy weight; the pull of this weight on the drum made the machine work and furnish gas for the lights in the house. The weight had to be cranked up once a week. I never understood the thing myself; my father always attended to it. In the early '90's city gas pipes were laid in the streets and we connected to them and discarded the old equipment.

"In the '80's and early '90's there were few if any paved sidewalks in the town, except the Main Street from the railroad to the Turnpike (now Haddon Ave.), and that, as I remember, was brick. On the other streets the sidewalks were mostly gravel and fairly good in dry weather, but when the weather was bad and especially in the spring when the frost was coming out of the ground, they naturally were very muddy. The property owners put down board walks in front of their houses. In our neighborhood (and I think it was general all over town) these board walks consisted of 2 one foot \times 16 feet Hemlock boards a full inch thick. They were nailed together with four 2" \times 3" battens. These sections were placed end to end and nailed together. They extended across our front and met the neighbor's boards at his line. A similar walk ran from the sidewalk to our house, and a single board, to the barn—a distance of 225 feet. It took my father and a helper a half day to lay these boards in the fall and another half day to take them up and pile them in the spring.

"In the summer we went swimming at Hoppie's (Hopkins Pond) and also at the "Oak" or the "Maple". These were deep places in Cooper's Creek above the tressel bridge. All these places were very unsatisfactory, but we did not know any better, so we enjoyed it.

"Of course we played baseball and football, but in the early days of the century cricket was a very popular game here. We had a club here and they owned or leased a large field, extending from the railroad west along the backs of the properties on the north side of Kings Highway West, to the east side of the properties on Estaugh Avenue to Euclid Avenue and along Euclid Avenue to the Railroad. There was a club house with a wide porch where the ladies, players and non-players would sit in the afternoons and chat. Tennis was popular, too. I think there were four courts.

"In the early years of this century the easiest way to get to Philadelphia was by train. The station was a busy place in the morning. The persons who traveled by these trains were divided by their friends into three classes:

Passengers on the 7:00 train were "Works"; on the 7:20 and 7:40, the "Clerks"; and on the 8:05, the "Shirks".

The Historical Society of Haddonfield
343 Kings Highway East
Haddonfield, NJ 08033



MRS RUBY OBERST
52 SHERWOOD PLACE
VINCENTOWN NJ 08088

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HOUSE RENTALS

The Historical Society was featured in the April 24, Strawbridge and Clothier Supplement to the Philadelphia Inquirer. The store had sent a crew to photograph bed linens and bath accessories using the Society's rooms and furnishings. It will again be featured on May 15, when the patio will be seen in the store's outdoor furniture supplement. As the department store is forever on the

outlook for interesting places to hold their shoots, they inquired of Greenfield Hall's possibilities and the results are to be seen in the Inquirer.

The busy rental season begins May 20, with weddings and retirement parties. The rental is \$250, and if anyone is interested in renting Greenfield Hall please contact the Society.